

FBI

Date: 3/26/68

Transmit the following in

PLAIN TEXT

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE

URGENT

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: MEMPHIS (157-1092) (2P)

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE, MEMPHIS, TENN.; RM.

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO BUREAU, MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST.

ON MARCH TWENTYSIX A FIRST SOURCE ADVISED THAT COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE FOR EQUALITY (COME), THE MEMPHIS MINISTERIAL GROUP LEADING SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE SUPPORT, HAVE CANCELLED PLANS FOR MASS DOWNTOWN MARCH ON MARCH TWENTYNINE. INSTEAD FOLLOWING EVENTS PLANNED: ON NIGHT OF MARCH TWENTYSEVEN REV. RALPH D. ABERNATHY, VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE, SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC) WILL ADDRESS MASS RALLY AT MASON TEMPLE. WILL CALL FOR MASS NEGRO WORK STOPPAGE AND SCHOOL BOYCOTT FOR MARCH TWENTYEIGHT DURING WHICH MASS DOWNTOWN MARCH WILL BE HELD, LED BY REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BEGINNING AT TEN AM. KING DUE TO ARRIVE IN MEMPHIS EARLIER ON THAT DATE. ON NIGHT OF MARCH TWENTYEIGHT KING WILL ADDRESS MASS RALLY AT MASON TEMPLE. ON FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH TWENTYNINE, DR. C. L.

Airtel FRANKLIN, MALE NEGRO, WELL KNOWN BAPTIST EVANGELIST FROM DETROIT,

Teletype WILL ADDRESS MASS RALLY AT MASON TEMPLE. FRANKLIN IS FATHER

A.M. OF NATIONALLY KNOWN RHYTHM AND BLUES SINGER ARETHA FRANKLIN.

A.M.S.D. - Atlanta (AM)

1 - Detroit (AM)

Spec. WHL:mjh (3)

SERIALIZED *mjh*

Reg. Mail *mjh*  
Approved: *R65*

Sent

INDEXED

FILED *mjh*

Per *Del*

Registered Special Agent in Charge

157-1092-149

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

ME 157-1092  
PAGE 2

COME LEADERS HOPE TO INDUCE KING TO REMAIN IN MEMPHIS THROUGH  
MARCH THIRTY AT WHICH TIME ANOTHER MASS DOWNTOWN MARCH WILL  
BEGIN AT TEN AM. COME HOPES TO HAVE BOTH KING AND FRANKLIN  
LEAD THAT MARCH. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND MEMPHIS PD ADVISED.

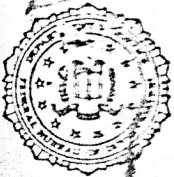
AIRMAIL COPY TO ATLANTA AND DETROIT. P. END.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Source One is [REDACTED]

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
March 26, 1968

Re: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
RACIAL MATTERS

The "Commercial Appeal" newspaper, Memphis, Tennessee, reported in its issue of March 26, 1968, that mediation talks on the issues of the 7-week-old sanitation strike in Memphis, Tennessee, ran for more than four hours on the afternoon of March 25, 1968, after a brief interlude during which Chancellor Robert Hoffman, Shelby County Chancery Court, ruled that members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees who were under injunction in his court could represent the workers in their negotiations with the City.

It will be recalled that it was originally reported on March 25, 1968, that Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), would lead a massive march in support of the strike in downtown Memphis on Friday, March 29, 1968.

On the late night of March 25, and the morning of March 26, 1968, a first source advised that this was erroneous information and that a meeting had been held on the evening of March 25, 1968, by the Community on the Move for Equality (COME), the name adopted by the Memphis Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, a group of some 125 Negro ministers in Memphis, who are leading the strike support, during which time plans for the remainder of the week beginning March 25, 1968, were formulated. These plans are as follows, according to source one:

On Wednesday night, March 27, 1968, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, Vice President-at-Large, SCLC, will speak at Mason Temple, Memphis, at which time he will urge a massive work stoppage on the part of Memphis Negroes and a boycott of the city schools by Negro students in order that thousands of Negroes can participate in a mass march.

- 11 - Bureau; 2 - AT; 1 - DE; 1 - G-2; 1 - OSI; 1 - NISO, Charleston  
1 - NISO, Memphis; 1 - 111th MI, Memphis; 1 - 111th MI, Nashville;  
1 - USA, Memphis; 1 - Secret Service, Memphis  
(5) - Memphis (157-1092)(157-556)(157-166)(100-4105)(170-70 Sub)  
WHL:gmh (27)

*gmh*

157-1092-153

*Lawrence*

*WHL*

SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

to commence at 10 a.m., Thursday, March 28, 1968, to leave from Clayborn Temple, Hernando and Pontotoc Street, Memphis. This march will be led by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., who is expected to arrive in Memphis early on the morning of March 28, 1968.

On the night of March 28, 1968, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., will address a mass strike support rally also to be held in Mason Temple; and on Friday night, March 29, 1968, also in Mason Temple, a mass strike support rally will be addressed by Dr. C. L. Franklin, also known as Reverend C. L. Franklin, Negro minister of Detroit, Michigan.

Source one stated Franklin is a former Memphian, is a leader in the National Baptist Convention, USA, headed by Dr. J. H. Jackson of Chicago, Illinois, and is a renowned Negro evangelist who formerly lived in Memphis and whose daughter, Aretha Franklin, is a nationally known rhythm and blues singer. In the source's opinion, Franklin will draw a tremendous crowd due to not only his personal popularity in the Negro religious community, but by virtue of the popularity of his daughter.

It is planned by the COME leaders that both Dr. Franklin and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., will remain in Memphis until Saturday, March 30, 1968, at which time another mammoth march is scheduled in downtown Memphis, this again to commence at Clayborn Temple at 10 a.m., March 30, 1968.

Source one stated that in all probability when the marchers come up Main Street in front of the Memphis City Hall that King and others will probably stop and address the marchers from the plaza area in front of the Memphis City Hall. The government plaza consists of four major buildings, all facing Main Street between Adams and Poplar, these being the City Hall, the Federal Building, the Tennessee State Office Building, and the Memphis Police Department; and several thousand people could easily congregate on the plaza.